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THE SLIDES IN THE CANAL

A vessel sailing from Santiago de Chile to Europe has two choices of route. She may save coal, distance, and time by using the Panama canal route. On the other hand she must pay the canal tolls. The elements balance pretty closely when a number of ports on the west coast of South America are considered.

It is therefore important that the factor of time be preserved on the side of the canal route. Interruption of the traffic through the big ditch, or the serious liability to interruption, is a constant menace to the confidence of navigators. The most recent slide in the Culebra section is reported to have completely tied up traffic for ten days. The utmost efforts are making to remove the material that has blocked the waterway, and experts are studying more diligently than ever before the problem of making the ditch permanently safe from such interruptions. There is opportunity for some new genius to put the finishing touch on the canal's perfection by devising a plan that will meet this need. The Government could well afford to pay a big bonus to the engineer or scientist who will come forward with the right plan.

THE NEW SEVENTH STREET

The carnival next Monday evening to celebrate the repaving of Seventh street marks a milestone in the history of an important thoroughfare. In some matters the ancients were more thoughtful than Americans. The Romans knew the value of roads. A new one was the occasion of a national celebration. They realized that good roads, as arteries of commerce and travel, meant much to the prosperity and comfort of the people.

The railroad and street car lines robbed the road and the street of their importance, the automobile has restored the balance. Farmers, in trying to get good roads, have calculated the money and time they could save by having better highways. Some efficiency expert may calculate how much Seventh street has lost by having a cobblestone paving that made team travel slower, hampered delivery of goods, and made the street taboo among motorists.

That is past and gone. In the earliest days of Washington a link between the northern District of Columbia and Washington, Seventh street has steadily developed despite its handicap of bad paving, and today is one of the busy retail sections of the city. It will be more important now that the paving is completed. What at first glance seems a commonplace thing, a new sort of street paving, on closer analysis is found to have a vital significance in the growth and life of this important shopping center.

SUCCESS OF THE LOAN

However many American bankers and investors were timid about the loan to Great Britain and France when the proposal was first put before them, there seems an almost unanimous demand for participation now, for the word in financial circles is over-subscriptions. The question is no longer whether they will take much, little, or any at all; it is whether they will get what they want. And before the notes are apportioned among the banks the public is knocking at the door for its share.

It is no explanation for this extraordinary change of sentiment that English newspapers and bondholders are astounded and shocked by the rates and terms conceded by the allies' commissioners for the loan. There never was any doubt that the loan would be a success both with the bankers and the public.

Every financial man knew that unexcelled security could never fail to command loans from surplus capital when it went to get them. Investment considers geography; it decides on security.

Every business man knew that the basis of international business must be credit. It was credit and facilitated business, or cash and hampered business.

Every farmer with deposits in the bank and with crops waiting to be converted into more deposits, every manufacturer with his plants fit to operate, every wage-earner with his hands ready to work, knew that every dollar of the loan was going to stay in this country to draw products from the land, keep machinery turning, and lengthen payrolls—and that all this huge industrial activity directly and immediately created by the loan would indirectly create five, ten, twenty times as much more.

And so, amid the enthusiasm of the nation, this credit for half a billion dollars to the allies is going into operation as smoothly as if a great American corporation possessed of unlimited resources were discounting an ordinary note in a rich and powerful bank.

It is to exactly that state, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency assenting and approving, with all others of influence and importance, that this country has come—emerged from a debtor nation to a creditor nation, lending with ease and satisfaction half a billion abroad, able and willing, if there be cause for it, to lend it several times over again.

CONSCRIPTION ONCE MORE

Lord Kitchener told representatives of the British trades unions that the beginning of the great drive in France and Belgium makes more pointed the necessity for insuring a regular supply of trained soldiers to take the places of those who are certain to be lost. The present method of voluntary service, he declared most positively, is not producing satisfactory results, and his entire address was a plea to the union men to withdraw their opposition to enforced service.

It ought to be manifest to the whole British public by this time that this advice is sound. Great Britain need feel no humiliation at the breakdown, at the present stage, of the scheme of voluntary enlistments. The world never saw such an army raised, under this plan, as the United Kingdom has produced. The enlistments have been better, in proportion to population, than they were in the North during the civil war, prior to the application of the draft. In a crisis in which it is necessary for a nation to exert its utmost strength, impartial and enforced service is fairest to all interests, classes, and individuals. There will be cases, of course, of withdrawing from industrial life men who can give best service there, and there must be provision for granting exceptions in these cases. But with honest administration of the rules, strictly on merit and without allowing influence to creep in and mar the system, compulsory service will produce the right results.

The great offensive is going to be fearfully destructive of life and of efficiency of the fighting forces. Many thousands will be temporarily incapacitated, whose places in the ranks must be filled at once if early advantages are to be held and further ones gained. There must be no uncertainty about this supply of fighting material. It will not be safe to rely on outbursts of popular enthusiasm over victories, or of popular exasperation over Zeppelin outrages to keep the lines filled.

Organized labor in America has recently been giving proof in its attitude toward preparedness of a broader and more creditable attitude than that of the British unions.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES

Preparedness is not all on one side of the European war, as matters stand today. The allies have manifestly done some very adequate preparing on their own account, not only for military and economic necessities, but to meet diplomatic exigencies as they might arise. They have had their eyes on the Near East, and they announced that fact in the plainest possible way in the statement by Sir Edward Grey recently, in which he declared without qualification that the quadruple entente would interpose to protect its friends in the Balkans with all their force. This was a plain threat to Bulgaria that if she entered the war against Serbia, Serbia would be supported by the allies to the limit.

It was no idle threat, if a Berlin dispatch is to be credited, which says that British and French troops have been landed at a Greek port, to co-operate with the Serbians. For a long time mystery has surrounded movements of Italians and other allied troops on the eastern Mediterranean. There may be a great Italian force close at hand to aid the Serbians, and it has been for a long time reported that the French and British have large forces in reserve in the east, ready for use wherever developing events may require.

The use of a Greek port as a landing place suggests how slender is the thread that holds Athens back from the war. Her army was mobilized immediately following and as an answer to the Bulgarian mobilization. Bulgaria thus faces the prospect, if she plunges into the war, of being attacked by Greece, France, Britain, and Serbia. The prospect of an Austro-German expedition smashing through Serbia and providing quick relief to Bulgaria is not bright. The Serbians have 600,000 troops of their own, and the finest defensive territory in Europe in which to make their stand. They are thoroughly equipped, and are fighters of the finest quality.

The one still persistent uncertainty concerns Roumania. Seemingly that country is determined to maintain her neutrality a little longer; but it is inconceivable that she will be able to remain neutral, and cer-

tain that, once breaking her neutrality, she will side with the entente. The Near East is closer to the brink than ever before.

A GERMAN LOAN, TOO

Certain classes of Americans whose Americanism is a good deal diluted, have seen reason for disaffection that this country should be making a big credit loan to the entente powers. They have protested that it was utterly violative of our supposed neutrality, and there have even been threats of boycotting financial interests that joined in making the loan.

To these especially, there will be food for reflection in the fact that Germany has placed a precisely similar credit loan in Sweden. Sweden, through its terror of Russia, is driven to an attitude of sympathy with Germany perhaps more pronounced than the preponderating sentiment of America for the allies. The one available neutral market, Sweden has been used by Germany as a commercial base through which to get imports past the British blockade, and also as an original source of every kind of supplies Sweden could afford. As a result there has grown up a huge trade balance in favor of Sweden. The case completely parallels the relationship of the allies to the United States, though the scale is far smaller. Germany has been forced to take measures to stabilize exchange with Sweden; and to do so has floated a loan of \$10,000,000 in that country in order to establish a credit basis for the commercial relations. Sweden "violated her neutrality" with the same eagerness that the United States is doing the same thing, and for the same reason: because it was necessary to make the loan if her great and profitable commerce with Germany was to be continued.

The fact is that neither Sweden nor the United States has committed any impropriety. Each has extended credit to a customer suddenly demanding a larger line than usual and able to give satisfactory security. That is the whole story in both cases. But the fact of Germany completely paralleling, in Sweden, the allies' credit here, is calculated to worry those pro-German "neutrals" who want nothing so much as to make it impossible for the United States to go ahead doing business with nations that are ready to do it.

THE "HOT DOG" VINDICATED

Killjoys, in the guise of health officers and food inspectors, have robbed life of some of its chief compensations. The pink lemonade that furnished the final touch for the circus epure has been banished in the name of purity; the ice cream cones that tasted better from the grimy hands of the Italian vendors have been abrogated; the candy of the little shop around the corner has been frowned upon, all because of home-made dyes.

Praise be, though, that the "hot dog" is to remain with us. These grim health officers have been prowling about Coney Island, and there they give the "dogs," all the 1,800,000 dispensed there this summer, a clean bill of health. Even a food inspector must realize he cannot go too far. The great American people have a fondness for "hot dogs" and a dislike of autocrats.

The "hot dog" is the most democratic institution we know. Perhaps that is why it is so palatable. Baked beans do not vie with it, because eating them is a sort of disparagement and condescension of the intellectuals. Corned beef and cabbage is not so savory; one always eats that combination with a sort of unspoken apology.

There is a feeling these days that sauerkraut and roast beef are equally un-neutral. But no one, from Mrs. Farmer, of cook book fame, to a food inspector, would question "hot dogs." They are eaten by the rich and the poor. The day laborer devours one, and the hurried business man snatches one for his luncheon. They are served on the tables of the lowly and they grace the breakfast fare of the mighty. Statesmen have declared their fondness for them, and Tammany has linked (no pun intended) picnics with politics, through them.

Thanks to the Coney Island health officers. They are safe and sane gentlemen, fit to be trusted with more talents. A keen appreciation of national institutions, a not too close scrutiny of the inevitable, no futile attempts to unscrew a sausage, but simply a reflection of the popular verdict, was theirs.

Medals Are Presented to Lusitania Disaster Heroes

LONDON, Oct. 1.—King George today presented medals to heroes of the Lusitania disaster. Officers and members of the liner's crew were among those decorated.

Farm Implements Shown.

DENVER, Oct. 1.—Farm implements and machinery were shown at the Soil Products Exposition here to the implement and machinery men, agriculturalists of the exposition today. Everything pertaining to the agricultural development of the West was demonstrated. Stress was laid on the tractor and the silo.

MAIL BAG
(From The Times' Readers.)

Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the paper and must not exceed 100 words in length, and must be signed with name and address of sender. The publication of letters in The Times' Mail Bag does not mean the endorsement by The Times of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is an open forum where the editors of The Washington Times can argue most questions.

Can't Understand Why U. S. Delays Departure of Ambassador Dumba.

To The Editor of The Times: I cannot understand why, if Ambassador Dumba is such an undesirable sojourner in the United States, all possible means are not taken to facilitate and hasten his departure. I would even suggest that Uncle Sam offer to pay his passage back to Europe, if necessary, and send a battleship along to convoy him, to be sure he gets away. DANIEL SMITH GORDON. Washington, September 24.

Building Idle, Schoolroom Living, In Southeast.

To The Editor of The Times: Despite the lack of school accommodations, a large Government building, containing many rooms with artistic shrubbery surroundings, occupying an entire square of ground on Pennsylvania avenue between Wisconsin and E streets, southeast, formerly occupied as the Naval Hospital, remains idle year after year, in charge of a caretaker. To utilize this fine building for school purposes, or civic bodies' meetings, etc., should commend it to the municipality. MARGARET C. LEHR. Washington, September 25.

An Error In Story Lee's Surrender.

To The Editor of The Times: In describing the events of Lee's surrender you made a strange statement. He had just 25,000 men present that day. Neither were we exactly living on horse feed. I served with General Lee's army throughout the siege of Petersburg and was present at Appomattox Court House and stood within twenty feet of General Lee when he signed the surrender. I am sure, therefore, that we fought through the war together. I have done the best I could for you. My heart is too full to say more. WALTER. Washington, September 27.

The Boys of Sixty-One and Nineteen Fifteen.

To The Editor of The Times: They are here, the boys of Sixty-one. They were old men yesterday, but today their great deeds shake us. They answered the taunting four to one challenge. They faced the cannon. They stopped the cavalry charge. They met steel with steel over the breastworks. They waded the swamps. They climbed the ramparts. They plunged into the wilderness relentlessly searching out the enemy.

We are here, too, the boys of Nineteen-fifteen. We are too proud to fight. Our mothers did not raise us to be soldiers. We are just as far as possible, considering financial limitations, toward meeting the demand for preparedness. This doesn't mean that I pretend to know just what ought to be done, "I am willing, and the party wants, to get the counsel of experts. That counsel is being prepared for submission to the Administration and Congress. I don't know whether we want to build a half-dozen battleships, or as many submarines, or a score of submarines and no battleships; but we propose to get the best advice first as to what we ought to do, and then start doing it. I don't know what plan the counsel of experts will recommend, but I will have legislation of a sort that, though Republicans may oppose during its consideration, they will have to support and carry out. I am not willing to be able to make an effective fight against it."

The speaker talked with President Wilson, and felt that he was pretty correctly reflecting the President's views.

A Serious Question.

How to pay for the expansion of military and naval establishments is really a more serious question right now than the preparedness program itself. Neither President nor legislative leaders are willing to make tariff changes that will imply any failure of the present tariff measures. They admit that the country's collections have been cut, but charge responsibility to the war. The income tax has not produced so much as was hoped for, and the disposition is decidedly favorable to lowering the income and corporation taxes, and imposing a Federal inheritance tax, rather than tinkering with the tariff.

A Point Well Taken and One With Which The Times Concurs Most Heartily.

To The Editor of The Times: I have tried very hard not to write you this note, but I find I have just got to. It relates to The Times of the 19th instant, and some local news on the first page under the double head, "Private Dailly Will Get O. R." In which the paper said that "Immate" had been expelled from the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, Ohio. It is the word, "Immate," that is offensive as used with respect to Private Dailly and his family, or place of residence. I am familiar with the definitions of the word immate, and I know that it means "inmate," and that here in the United States "Immate" signifies persons confined or kept in an institution, such as a hospital, or a poorhouse. Now, soldiers' home is none of these; it should be near a temple of fame. Private Dailly earned his right to be there by his valor in the war. He is a hero, and his name should be associated with this old soldier's presence there.

Why cannot the press refer to the soldiers who dwell at the various branches of the National Soldiers' Home as members, or residents? I know, to most people in our own country, for one to have been in our own country is not much honor. He may be pitted and tolerated, but if he has not riches he is regarded as an unfortunate "has been." How different in Great Britain, Europe, and Japan. You have traveled, you know, and you know that the word "Immate" is not used there. It is a word of contempt, and it is happening across the Atlantic to our own soldiers. Let us change the word to "inmate," and let us have sympathy with this view.

Would Prevent "Dumping."

Manufacturers of dyes, of chemicals, of some fabrics, and experimenters with production of potash, are demanding that, if they shall go ahead trying to provide things that formerly came from Germany, they must have assurance that they will not be crushed by the powerful German cartels after the war. The Secretary of the United States Tariff Commission has given an answer, long ago foreshadowed in this correspondence, in his statement that the Administration was in no position to help all these people, but opposes doing it by the tariff plan.

One Year Ago Today in the War

German warships, assisted by aeroplanes, bombarded Japanese army's positions before Tsing-tau. The Russians stopped two attempts of the German troops to force a passage across the Niemen river in Russian Poland. Five million dollars in gold sent to Canada as first installment of New York bankers' \$100,000,000 gold pool. Austria tried to prevent complications with Italy by agreeing to pay \$1,000,000 indemnity for damage done to Italian fishing boats and their crews.

Democrats Preparing Legislative Program For Coming Session

National Preparedness, Raising of Revenue Without Prejudice to Tariff Law, Extension of Income Tax, and Anti-Dumping Law Among Measures Considered.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

Here are some parts of the Democratic legislative program which has been under consideration recently in conferences of party leaders—Senators, House members, Cabinet ministers, the President, and unofficial advisers:

1. To pass measures looking to military and naval preparedness of such character as will deprive the Republicans of opportunity to make a "preparedness issue" next year.
2. To raise revenue for this purpose without any tariff changes that will confess the inadequacy of present tariff legislation.
3. To avoid a bond issue as they would contagion.
4. To extend the income tax and perhaps adopt an inheritance tax.
5. To pass an anti-dumping law, which is likely to prove very similar to the Australian law that is considered to have worked very well.

WANT COUNSEL OF EXPERTS.

It cannot be said that these items have been adopted as a definite program, nor that they are all the features in the project for the coming session of Congress. But they suggest such a constancy of matters under consideration.

Senate leaders who have been here recently have declared unequivocally that they are ready to go just as far as possible, considering financial limitations, toward meeting the demand for preparedness. This doesn't mean that I pretend to know just what ought to be done, "I am willing, and the party wants, to get the counsel of experts. That counsel is being prepared for submission to the Administration and Congress. I don't know whether we want to build a half-dozen battleships, or as many submarines, or a score of submarines and no battleships; but we propose to get the best advice first as to what we ought to do, and then start doing it. I don't know what plan the counsel of experts will recommend, but I will have legislation of a sort that, though Republicans may oppose during its consideration, they will have to support and carry out. I am not willing to be able to make an effective fight against it."

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A Serious Question. How to pay for the expansion of military and naval establishments is really a more serious question right now than the preparedness program itself. Neither President nor legislative leaders are willing to make tariff changes that will imply any failure of the present tariff measures. They admit that the country's collections have been cut, but charge responsibility to the war. The income tax has not produced so much as was hoped for, and the disposition is decidedly favorable to lowering the income and corporation taxes, and imposing a Federal inheritance tax, rather than tinkering with the tariff.

The President especially is understood to be determined by the tariff and give it a chance for a tryout under normal conditions. The sugar industry, both the beet sugar in the West and the cane in the South, are active in efforts to secure legislation that will prevent the sugar duty falling from the graduates of the tariff. The American sugar producers are anxious to make big profits indefinitely, whether they have protection or not, and it is so long as the duty continues as now, there will be no interference with the program that looks to free sugar.

It is no secret that when the free-sugar measure passed, many Democrats suspected it would kill most of the sugar industry in this country. They took the position that the industry cost consumers more than it was worth. Now, however, they are thanking their stars for the fact that the war's declaration of world supplies has made it possible for the American producers to go ahead; and they want this condition temporarily maintained. There is a considerable group of Republicans who have always opposed the old-style sugar tariff with the program that looks to free sugar.

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THIS MAY BE LAST GRAND ENCAMPMENT

Strong Feeling Among Veterans That Necessary Railway Accommodations Can't Be Had.

Is this to be the last encampment of the surviving veterans of the Union Army?

There was much feeling to this effect among the old veterans in and around Camp Emory today. It was predicted frequently that the next gathering of the Grand Army of the Republic might be a convocation of delegates rather than an encampment of posts from all over the country.

The attitude of the railroads toward the organization as reflected in the statements made by delegates to the encampment during the fight for the naming of the next meeting place is said to have foretold the end of encampments.

According to one of the best informed delegates, when it was finally determined that Kansas City would be the meeting place, the question of whether it would be the meeting place of 100 or 200 delegates or the entire organization came up for consideration, and has not yet been entirely settled.

While the sentiment of most of the veterans seems to be that an encampment will be held at Kansas City, there is a strong feeling that the necessary railroad accommodations for the various organizations cannot be had. The various posts will not go to Kansas City, so the veterans seem to think, unless the most generous concessions with regard to special rates can be made. So far as can be learned, the railroads are not in a position to make the concessions that will be asked.

For this reason, therefore, the present encampment takes on a new importance. Not only is it being held here on the fifteenth anniversary of the grand review of 1865, but also, according to this reasoning, it may be the last meeting of the veterans as a national body. While this question will not be finally determined for some months, unless the encampment takes place, the organization of it and orders an encampment instead of a meeting of delegates, there is an undercurrent of feeling among the old soldiers that they have had the last time, and that in the future their reunions will be small affairs, confined to the separate army corps, and brigade organizations and the organizations having special purposes.

HISTORIC GAVEL USED BY NAVAL VETERANS

Made From Wood of Vessels Participating in Three American Wars.

One of the most historic relics brought to the city by the veterans—and one which preserves the memories of the revolution, the war of 1812, as well as the civil conflict—is the gavel which was used for the first time during an entire session of the Naval Veterans' Association yesterday afternoon.

This gavel is made from wood taken from the Royal Savage, a British ship-of-war on Lake Champlain, which the Continental forces fought with under the command of Benedict Arnold in 1776.

The gavel was presented to the association at its last annual meeting in Detroit by H. E. McCallum, of New Haven, Conn., who was yesterday elected secretary and paymaster of the organization. It replaces as the official gavel a heavy instrument made from wood that also has a history. This was the gavel used by the Gaspee House, in Providence R. I., which was the headquarters of the so-called Gaspee plot in 1770, who attacked and burned an British revenue cutter sent to enforce the stamp tax in 1772, several years before the protest of the colonists against the tax which resulted in sparking about the war of the revolution.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM IN CAPITAL TODAY

Opening of National University Law School, 816 Thirtieth street northwest, 8:30 p. m. Organ recital for G. A. R. members, First Presbyterian Church, Tenth and G streets northwest, 8 p. m. Special devotion, Chapel of Perpetual Adoration, 1000 Massachusetts avenue, 7:30 p. m. Methodist Protestant Church, Thirty-fifth street, United States Soldiers' Home Band, Landmark at Home, 4 p. m. Meeting, Park View Soldiers' Association, Whitney Avenue Christian Church, Park road, near Georgia avenue northwest, 7:30 p. m. Masonic-Labanon, No. 7, School of Instruction, Royal Arch Masons, Martha, No. 4, Masonic, No. 8, Ascension, No. 20, Eastern Star.

Amusements.

National—"Too Near Paris," 8:15 p. m. Reliance—"The Two Virgins," 8:30 p. m. National—"The Grand Army Man," 8:15 and 8:35 p. m. Keith's-Vaudville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m. Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Reception to Pennsylvania members of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Washington, 10:00 a. m. Reception to Pennsylvania members of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Washington, 10:00 a. m. Reception to Pennsylvania members of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Washington, 10:00 a. m.

Thief Gets Veteran's Money and Ticket Home

Michael Sullivan of 12 Beaver street, South Farrington, Mass., has reported to the police that he was robbed of \$22, a silver watch and gold chain, and a return ticket to his home while on McCullough street yesterday. Sullivan is a veteran, and belongs to the Fifth Army Corps.

Washington Law College Opens Twentieth Year

Dr. Charles W. Needham will address the Washington College of Law, 1317 New York avenue, at the beginning of its twentieth year this evening. Its large enrollment is expected this year to reach 100. The college is open from 8:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. This arrangement is made to give students the most convenient hours and assures greater individual attention because of smaller classes.